



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Senator Sue Boyce**

Liberal - Queensland

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**13 AUGUST 2008**

## **Torres Strait Prices Need Investigation**

The ShopSmart basket of groceries cost \$90.78 on Thursday Island yesterday – almost \$30 more than the Queensland average - according to Senator Sue Boyce.

"In our August survey last week the same basket cost \$64.03 in Cairns. The Queensland average was \$63.04.

"Every Torres Strait leader I met is desperate for the State and Federal Labor Governments to properly analyse the true cost of living in the Torres Strait.

"The massive cost of the ShopSmart basket is only an indicator of the very high cost of living that the Torres Strait Islanders must cope with.

"I have also seen petrol prices of \$2.80 per litre and more. Fuel, especially marine fuel, is essential to earn a living and provide food for the family on the islands.

"The Government's Grocerywatch website only gives Torres Strait Islanders the average price across the region, and is an insult to the people here."

"The Government must conduct a proper enquiry into the cost of living in the Torres Strait and provide a decent subsidy.

"People here deserve action and not rhetoric."

**August prices are available online at [www.shopsmart.sueboyce.com.au](http://www.shopsmart.sueboyce.com.au)**

*Ends...*

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